

MINUTES OF COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

July 15, 2009

Attendees: Joseph Pankowski, Chair and Acting Secretary, Jennifer Geddes (Vice Chair), Ron Heinbaugh, Karen Joelson, Mary McCarthy, Robin Woods. Also in attendance: Linda Santarella (Selectmen's Liason), Olive Hauser (ex-officio/Social Services) and Anthony Homicki, Town Assessor

The minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting were approved.

Joseph Pankowski noted that Dorothy Matteis had resigned as secretary. As acting secretary, Mr. Pankowski asked Vice Chair Jennifer Geddes to oversee the meeting. Ms. Geddes agreed. In consultation with Linda Santarella, Ms. Geddes agreed to work with Karl Kilduff to obtain a secretary for the Commission's meetings starting in September.

Anthony Homicki, Town Assessor, gave a presentation on tax assessments in town. He distributed a print-out of the Assessor's website information and asked the Commission to provide him with feedback at the September meeting. Mr. Homicki noted that only four (4) seniors are currently taking advantage of the deferral program due primarily to the fact that many seniors do not want a lien on their property. There are 140 to 150 households which are getting a form of credit against the taxes (and no lien against their homes), Mr. Homicki said.

Ron Heinbaugh then read the Senior Center Report (see attached sheet).

Linda Santarella noted that someone approached her to tell her that the Commission on Aging was not happy with the Board of Selectmen. The members of the Commission informed her that this was not the case.

Ms. Geddes advised the Commission that the new Senior Center Coordinator is Beth Paris, who formerly worked in Stratford. She appears to be very energetic, according to Ms. Geddes, and she plans to be very community-oriented. Ms. Paris, who was chosen from a group of eight (8) finalists, will start in August and will be at the Center every weekday. Carolyn Lewis will become the assistant program director. We will invite Ms. Paris to the September meeting.

Mr. Heinbaugh noted there was a Memorial Fund established approximately 20 years ago which allowed people to make gifts to the Senior Center. With the town taking over the Center's funds, Mr. Heinbaugh wanted to make sure that the funds in the Memorial Fund were not commingled with the town's other assets and plans to stay on top of this situation.

Olive Hauser, in coordination with the Chairman, said that she has arranged for the Commission to meet in larger rooms for the rest of the year.. The monthly meetings will now be in Room 119, with one exception: November's meeting will be in Room 206.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. **Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 16, Room 119.**

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Pankowski, acting secretary.

Darien Senior Center Report
Commission on Aging Board Meeting
July 15, 2009

Last week I started my new temporary full time position as the Senior Center's Interim Director, a position which I will hold until Aug. 24, 2009, when the new Senior Center Coordinator, Beth Paris, will start her new position. I will join her as her part time Program Assistant on that date.

On Monday Lou Sabini entertained the Monday group with an old classic film entitled "Johnny Alamo". Next Monday Sally Harding will give a talk on "What's Available to You as a Senior". The last Monday of the month State Representative Terri Woods will talk about CL&P "Energy Conservation". The "Alliance Francais" French group held their monthly meeting/discussion here.

The Thursday Art series, featuring tapes by the Smithsonian, will include talks on Venetian Art, Jan van Eyck, Botticelli, & Leonardo da Vinci.

I have met with David Coldrick from Town's Finance Dept. and starting next week, I must drop off all money collected for lunch and programs to his office. All instructors, vendors and other bills must also be submitted to and paid for by that Department.

I have been keeping a daily record of Program statistics and income, which the Parks and Rec Dept. want. All instructors are asked to take attendance and I keep a count of all participants in each class and the cash collected.

I received a call from Sue Swiatek, Head of Parks & Rec and she is assigning an individual from her Department to paint the Center, room by room. Obviously, they will tackle those in the worst shape first, working so as not to disrupt the seniors' program schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Lewis